EARTH DAY 2006

Celebrate Earth Day, April 22

On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. It was a time when cities were buried under their own smog and polluted rivers caught fire. Now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe. Through the combined efforts of the U.S. government, grassroots organizations, and citizens like you, what started as a day of national environmental recognition has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment.

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RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT*: Good morning. This weekend I am traveling in California, where I'm focusing on important issues for our Nation's future, including our economy, energy prices, the war on terror, and immigration reform.*

America's economy is strong, and we need to keep it strong in an increasingly competitive world. The talent and innovative spirit of our people have driven America's economic growth. To maintain our economic leadership, our Nation must stay on the leading edge of innovation -- so I have proposed the American Competitiveness Initiative.

One important part of this initiative is improving math and science education for our young people, so they have the right skills to succeed in the 21st century economy. On Friday in San Jose, I had the chance to visit Cisco Systems, a company that understands the importance of preparing the next generation for the high-tech jobs of tomorrow.

Through its Networking Academy Program, Cisco is helping to train high school students in math, science, and information technology skills. By ensuring that we have a skilled workforce for the future, companies like Cisco are helping America compete with confidence, and keeping our economy growing, and creating new jobs for our citizens.

Saturday is Earth Day, and many of you are asking how we can meet our growing energy needs while protecting our environment. The key is technology. So I have proposed the Advanced Energy Initiative to change the way we power our homes, businesses, and cars. I will visit the California Fuel Cell Partnership to take a closer look at hydrogen fuel cells, one of the exciting new technologies supported by my initiative. These fuel cells have the potential to revolutionize the way we power our cars by giving us vehicles that will emit no pollution and will be more efficient than gas-powered cars.

My Advanced Energy Initiative will also help improve hybrid vehicles -- cars and trucks that run partly on electricity and help drivers save gas. We're funding research into a new generation of plug-in hybrid vehicles that could be recharged in electrical outlets and could allow many drivers to make their daily commute using no gasoline.

By developing these and other new sources of clean renewable energy like ethanol, we will continue growing our economy, reduce energy prices and protect our environment, and make America less dependent on foreign oil.

Americans are asking about our progress toward victory in the war on terror. I have confidence in the outcome of this struggle because I know the character of the people who wear our Nation's uniform. On Sunday, I will attend church and have lunch with

Marine Corps and Navy personnel and their families at the Twentynine Palms base. I will tell them how honored I am to be their Commander in Chief and express the gratitude of all Americans for their service in the cause of freedom.

Since September the 11th, 2001, the men and women of our military have overthrown a cruel regime in Afghanistan, captured or killed many al Qaeda terrorists, liberated Iraq, and made America more secure from terrorist dangers. We're fighting the terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them here at home. By taking the fight to the terrorists and bringing liberty and hope to a troubled region, our courageous troops are making the world a safer place.

On Monday, I'll visit Irvine, California, to discuss immigration reform with the local community. Immigration is an emotional issue. And it's sparked passionate debate. When we discuss immigration, we're talking about the integrity of our borders, the enforcement of our laws, and the character of our Nation.

Here's what I believe: America does not have to choose between being a welcoming society and being a lawful society. We can be both at the same time. In the coming weeks, I'll press Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that secures our border, enforces our laws, meets the needs of our economy, and upholds our highest ideals.

We must also ensure that all immigrants assimilate into our society and learn our customs, our values, and our language. America is a land of immigrants and a Nation of laws. And we must stay true to both parts of this great heritage.

As Congress returns from its recess, its members have important and consequential work before them. I urge them to act on my initiatives to keep America competitive, to promote alternative sources of energy, reform our immigration system, and continue their support of our troops fighting in the global war on terror.

By taking these steps, we'll maintain America's strength. And a strong America will help lead the world to a future of greater freedom and prosperity and peace.

Thank you for listening.

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Source : http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Apr/22-969963.html

Fact Sheet: Earth Day 2006: Developing New Transportation Technology

Today, President Bush Traveled To West Sacramento, California, And Marked Earth Day By Discussing His Agenda To Help Develop Advanced Transportation Technology. On Earth Day, Americans celebrate our country's natural beauty and renew our commitment to be good stewards of our air, water, and land. As part of that commitment, the President has proposed the Advanced Energy Initiative (AEI) to accelerate research into cleaner, alternative energy sources.

- **The President Toured The California Fuel Cell Partnership, Which Is Advancing The Most Promising Long-Run Alternative To Gasoline - Hydrogen.** Bringing together auto makers, energy companies, fuel cell technology companies, and Federal and State agencies, the Partnership is showing that hydrogen is the fuel of the future. Hydrogen can power a car that uses no gasoline and produces virtually no air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions. The Partnership has helped place more than 100 hydrogen-powered vehicles on California roads, and the fueling station the President visited today has filled vehicles with hydrogen almost 6,000 times.

Earth Day 2006: The President's Commitment To A Cleaner Environment

The President Is Pursuing Common-Sense Policies To Conserve The Environment. By focusing on results and listening to citizens who know the land the best, the Administration has compiled a strong environmental record. This Earth Day, America's air is cleaner, our water is purer, and our land is better cared for than when the President took office.

- **America's Air Is Cleaner.** The President has set and enforced tough standards for air quality. Since the President took office, air pollution has dropped by more than 12 percent. The Administration is implementing new clean air rules that will reduce power-plant pollution by approximately 70 percent and cut pollution from diesel fuel engines by more than 90 percent. This includes the first-ever national cap on mercury emissions from power plants.
- **America's Water Is Purer.** Two years ago, the President set a goal to restore, improve, or protect at least 3 million acres by 2009. Today, the Administration is more than halfway toward meeting that goal. So far, 1.8 million acres of wetlands have been restored, improved, or protected. The President is also taking action to protect our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, by implementing a new oceans policy to help end overfishing, rebuild fisheries, conserve coastal and marine habitats, and promote education and undersea exploration.
- **America's Land Is Better Protected.** Under the Farm Bill the President signed in 2002, funding for conservation programs increased by 80 percent. Over 10 years, nearly $40 billion is being provided to help farmers and ranchers protect wildlife habitats and other natural resources. Through the President's Healthy Forest Initiative, we have cleared away dangerous underbrush and reduced the risk of catastrophic fire on more than 15 million acres of land. By the end of this summer, another five million acres will have been treated.
- **America's National Parks Are Improved.** Upon taking office, the President pledged to spend $4.9 billion dollars over five years to reduce the maintenance backlog in national parks such as Yosemite, Death Valley, and Joshua Tree. With his budget this year, the President is keeping this promise.

The Achievements Of The Past Five Years Are Part Of A Larger Record Of Success. In the 36 years since the first Earth Day, air pollution in America has been reduced by 50 percent, and over the same period, our economy has tripled in size. This record proves that environmental protection and economic prosperity can go together. And technology is what makes that possible.

The Advanced Energy Initiative - Pursuing Cleaner, More Efficient Energy Technologies

The Advanced Energy Initiative (AEI) Will Help Break America's Dependence On Foreign Sources Of Oil By Developing Cleaner, More Reliable Energy Sources. Since the President took office, we have spent nearly $10 billion to develop cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy sources. That funding has put us on the verge of remarkable breakthroughs. The AEI will accelerate breakthroughs and transform the way we power cars and trucks by investing aggressively in three promising technologies: hydrogen, hybrid vehicles, and ethanol. By researching and developing these technologies, America will meet the President's goal of replacing more than 75 percent of oil imports from the Middle East by 2025.

- **The President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative Is Helping Move Hydrogen Technology From The Labroom To The Showroom.** In his 2003 State of the Union Address, President Bush pledged $1.2 billion over five years for hydrogen research and development. So far, more than $600 million has been provided to these efforts, and the President's 2007 budget will provide another $289 million.
    - **The Hydrogen Fuel Initiative Is Producing Results.** Since 2003, researchers have used Federal funding to double the lifetime of the hydrogen fuel cell stacks that power cars and to cut the cost of manufacturing hydrogen fuel cells in half. These advances are helping to make it possible to begin moving from a hydrocarbon economy to a hydrogen economy.
- **Hybrid Vehicles Can Help Reduce Oil Consumption Now.** Hybrid vehicles have both a gasoline-powered engine and an electric battery. These vehicles can travel about twice as far on a gallon of fuel as gasoline-only vehicles. Because hybrid vehicles use less gasoline, they will help make America less dependent on oil, and they emit less pollution and greenhouse gases. In 2005, more than 200,000 hybrids were sold in America - a record number.
    - **The Administration Is Taking Steps To Encourage More Drivers To Buy Hybrids.** The Energy Bill signed by the President in August 2005 created a tax credit of up to $3,400 for hybrid purchasers.
    - **The Administration Is Supporting The Development Of A New Generation Of "Plug-In" Hybrids.** "Plug-in hybrids" could be recharged in a standard electrical outlet. When a "plug-in hybrid" is started, the battery would be fully charged. This could allow drivers to go 40 miles on electricity alone, allowing most Americans to do their daily commute without burning a drop of gasoline. The President's FY 2007 Budget includes $31 million - a 27-percent increase over current levels - to speed up research into battery technologies.
- **The President Supports Ethanol As A Promising Alternative To Gasoline.** Most ethanol is produced from corn and blended with gasoline to produce a clean, efficient fuel. New technology is making it possible to make ethanol from wood chips, stalks, switch grass, and other natural materials. To speed development, the President's FY 2007 budget proposes $150 million for research into homegrown fuels - a 65 percent increase over current levels. Our goal is to help new forms of ethanol become competitive with corn-based ethanol within six years so that more American drivers can choose ethanol over gasoline.

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Source : http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/04/20060422-2.html

WHAT IS EARTH DAY?

Earth Day and the Rise of Environmental Consciousness

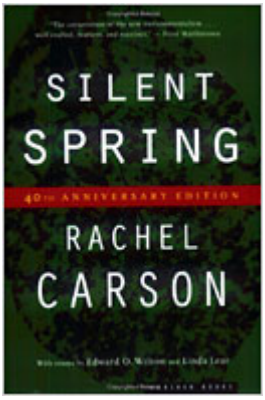
Earthrise as seen from Moon orbit, December 24, 1968. (NASA photo)

By Tim Brown
Washington File Staff Writer

Earth Day, April 22, is the annual celebration of the environment and a time to assess the work still needed to protect the natural gifts of our planet. Earth Day has no central organizing force behind it though several nongovernmental organizations work to keep track of the thousands of local events in schools and parks that mark the day. Earth Day is observed around the world, although nowhere is it a national holiday. In the United States, it affirms that environmental awareness is part of the country's consciousness and that the idea of protecting the environment - once the province of a few conservationists - has moved from the extreme to the mainstream of American thought.

A 19th century locomotive.

This was not always the case. In the 19th century Americans, blessed with a vast land rich in natural resources, lived with the notion that fresh fields were always just over the horizon. When one exhausted the soil or forests or coal of a given place it was possible to move on to another. As industry boomed in the early 20th century people accepted without question skies blackened from smokestack emissions and rivers fouled with industrial waste. As early as the mid-1930s - and again in the 1950's - Ohio's Cuyahoga River, running through America's industrial heartland, was set ablaze by burning chemical waste from factories built upon its banks. There was no public outcry. Few people even noticed.



Rachel Carson's best seller helped raise environmental awareness.

During the 1960s public attitudes began to change. In 1962 a marine biologist named Rachel Carson published "Silent Spring." The title referred to a future without birds and described in plain language devastating long-term effects of highly toxic pesticides and other chemical agents then commonly used in American agriculture, industry and daily life. The book was a surprise best-seller. In 1968 Apollo astronauts, returning from their pioneering orbital flight around the moon, photographed for the first time the planet Earth as a whole. This image of the Earth - small, fragile, beautiful, and unique - was quickly imprinted on the psyches of millions. In 1969 industrial runoff in the Cuyahoga River again caught fire. This time the public reaction was immediate and intense. Cleveland, Ohio, where the fire occurred, became a national laughing-stock, and the satirical song "Burn On, Big River, Burn On" was heard on radios across the country. In that same year the U.S. Congress passed the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), declaring a "national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment."

College students protest the Vietnam War.

Concurrent with this slow building of environmental awareness was the increasingly vocal opposition to U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam. Public demonstrations against the war -- particularly on college campuses -- gave impetus to the idea that organized challenges to the "status-quo" could in fact change public policy and behavior.

Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin and a long time conservationist, was one who understood that the methods developed for use in the anti-war protest could succeed in other areas as well. "At the time," Nelson later wrote, "there was a great deal of turmoil on the college campuses over the Vietnam War. Protests, called anti-war teach-ins, were being widely held on campuses across the nation.... It suddenly occurred to me, why not have a nationwide teach-in on the environment? That was the origin of Earth Day."

Earth Day co-founder Dennis Hayes works on the first "environmental teach-in," April 1970. (©AP/WWP)

Nelson returned to Washington and began promoting Earth Day to state governors, mayors of major cities, editors of college newspapers, and, importantly, to Scholastic Magazine, which is circulated in U.S. elementary and high schools. In September, 1969 Nelson formally announced that there would be a "national environmental teach-in" sometime in the Spring of 1970. "The wire services carried the story nationwide," recalled Nelson. "The response was dramatic.... Telegrams, letters, and telephone inquiries poured in from all over the nation. Using my Senate staff, I ran Earth Day activities out of my office. By December, the movement had expanded so rapidly that it became necessary to open an office in Washington to serve as a national clearinghouse for Earth Day inquiries and activities... "Earth Day achieved what I had hoped for. The objective was to get a nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment so large that it would shake the political arena. It was a gamble, but it worked. An estimated 20 million people participated in peaceful demonstrations all across the country. Ten thousand grade schools and high schools, two thousand colleges, and one thousand communities were involved... That was the remarkable thing that became Earth Day."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was founded in 1970.

Groundbreaking federal legislation followed the success of the first Earth Day. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was established in 1970, followed by the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act of 1972, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Among the many far-reaching provisions of these bills was the requirement that automobiles use unleaded gasoline, achieve a minimum number of miles-per-gallon of gasoline and be equipped with catalytic converters to reduce the amount of toxic fumes released by automobile exhaust.

Then, in the wake of this legislative success, Earth Day seemed to disappear. Though annual celebrations continued, they failed to match the size and enthusiasm of the first year. Earth Day seemed to have become a relic of the protest days of the early 1970s.

Yet the spirit of Earth Day continued. Environmental organizations grew in size and power. Groups such as Greenpeace, formed in Canada in 1971, adopted principles of non-violent civil disobedience to raise public consciousness about dwindling whale populations and the risks of nuclear power. The Nature Conservancy, formed in 1951, re-dedicated itself in the early 1970s to the "preservation of natural diversity" and began to buy undeveloped land for use as nature preserves. Venerable institutions such as the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society vigorously brought suits against logging companies to slow the destruction of old-growth forests. Funded by public contributions and staffed with lawyers and educators as well as scientists and naturalists, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) became aggressive watchdogs for the environment.

At home, Americans, often prompted by their children, began to separate their household trash for recycling. By the late 1980s recycling programs were established in many communities. By the mid-1990s these municipal recycling programs were paying for themselves, the amount of trash dumped into landfills was in noticeable decline, and more than 20 percent of America's municipal trash was being converted into useful products. Corporations, ever conscious of the desires of the consumer - and the bottom line of profits - began to promote themselves as being environmentally friendly. Many firms adopted sensible business practices that increased efficiency and reduced the amounts of industrial waste.


Earth Day rally at the U.S. Capitol in 1990.

Earth Day came back in a big way in 1990. Led by Dennis Hayes, a primary organizer of the first Earth Day, Earth Day 1990 was international in scope. More than 200 million people around the world - ten times the number in 1970 - participated in events that recognized that the environment had finally become a universal public concern. The global momentum continued in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janiero, Brazil, where an unprecedented number of governments and NGOs agreed on a far-ranging program to promote sustainable development.

The 25th anniversary of the first Earth Day in 1995 was a time to assess environmental progress. In Western countries the news seemed good - air and water were cleaner, forests were expanding and many other environmental indicators were up as well. The sometimes volatile combination of legislation, lawsuits brought by NGOs, public education and more efficient business practices had made a noticeable and positive effect on the condition of the environment.

But there were conflicting views on just how good this news was. Environmental reporter Gregg Easterbrook wrote in The New Yorker magazine that environmental laws "along with a vast array of private efforts spurred by environmental consciousness...have been a stunning success.... Environmental regulations, far from being burdensome and expensive, have proved to be strikingly effective, have cost less than anticipated, and have made the economies of the countries that have put them into effect stronger, not weaker."

Environment magazine, a leading NGO journal, offered a gloomier assessment: "Earth Day... has neither spawned a permanently active citizenry nor transformed the general malaise that undermines faith in democratic accountability. Although environmentalism has made great strides since 1970, institutionally as well as in public consciousness, environmental security... today remains even more elusive than 25 years ago."

Earth Day celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2005. What began in 1970 as a protest movement has evolved into a global celebration of the environment and commitment to its protection. The history of Earth Day mirrors the growth of environmental awareness over the last three decades, and the legacy of Earth Day is the certain knowledge that the environment is a universal concern.


An great egret perches in Florida's Everglades. (©AP/WWP)

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Source : http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Apr/11-390328.html

Earth Day History

In the 1970s

1970 Twenty million people celebrate the first Earth Day.

1970 President Richard Nixon creates EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] with a mission to protect the environment and public health.

1970 Congress amends the Clean Air Act to set national air quality, auto emission, and anti-pollution standards.

1971 Congress restricts use of lead-based paint in residences and on cribs and toys.

1972 EPA bans DDT, a cancer-causing pesticide, and requires extensive review of all pesticides.

In 1996, the bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list, reflecting its recovery since the 1972 DDT ban.

1972 The United States and Canada agree to clean up the Great Lakes, which contain 95 percent of America's fresh water and supply drinking water for 25 million people.

1972 Congress passes the Clean Water Act, limiting raw sewage and other pollutants flowing into rivers, lakes, and streams.

In 1972, only 36 percent of the nation's assessed stream miles were safe for uses such as fishing and swimming: today, about 60 percent are safe for such uses.

1973 EPA begins phasing out leaded gasoline.

1973 OPEC oil embargo triggers energy crisis, stimulating conservation and research on alternative energy sources.

1973 EPA issues its first permit limiting a factory's polluted discharges into waterways.

1974 Congress passes the Safe Drinking Water Act, allowing EPA to regulate the quality of public drinking water.

1975 Congress establishes fuel economy standards and sets tail-pipe emission standards for cars, resulting in the introduction of catalytic converters.

1976 Congress passes the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, regulating hazardous waste from its production to its disposal.

1976 President Gerald Ford signs the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce environmental and human health risks.

1976 EPA begins phase-out of cancer-causing PCB production and use.

1977 President Jimmy Carter signs the Clean Air Act Amendments to strengthen air quality standards and protect human health.

1978 Residents discover that Love Canal, New York, is contaminated by buried leaking chemical containers.

1978 The federal government bans chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as propellants in aerosol cans because CFCs destroy the ozone layer, which protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation.

1979 EPA demonstrates scrubber technology for removing air pollution from coal-fired power plants. This technology is widely adopted in the 1980s.

1979 Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, increases awareness and discussion about nuclear power safety. EPA and other agencies monitor radioactive fallout.

In the 1980s

1980 Congress creates Superfund to clean up hazardous waste sites. Polluters are made responsible for cleaning up the most hazardous sites.

1981 National Research Council report finds acid rain intensifying in the Northeastern United States and Canada.

1982 Congress enacts laws for safe disposal of nuclear waste.

1982 Dioxin contamination forces the government to purchase homes in Times Beach, Missouri. The federal government and the responsible polluters share the cleanup costs.

1982 A PCB landfill protest in North Carolina begins the environmental justice movement.

1983 Cleanup actions begin to rid the Chesapeake Bay of pollution stemming from sewage treatment plants, urban runoff, and farm waste.

1983 EPA encourages homeowners to test for radon gas, which causes lung cancer.

To date, more than 18 million homes have been tested for radon. Approximately 575 lives are saved annually due to radon mitigation and radon-resistant new construction.

1985 Scientists report that a giant hole in the earth's ozone layer opens each spring over Antarctica.

1986 Congress declares the public has a right to know when toxic chemicals are released into air, land, and water.

1987 The United States signs the Montreal Protocol, pledging to phase-out production of CFCs.

1987 Medical and other waste washes up on shores, closing beaches in New York and New Jersey.

1988 Congress bans ocean dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste.

1989 Exxon Valdez spills 11 million gallons of crude oil in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

In the 1990s

1990 Congress passes the Clean Air Act Amendments, requiring states to demonstrate progress in improving air quality.

1990 EPA's Toxic Release Inventory tells the public which pollutants are being released from specific facilities in their communities.

The number of chemicals listed in EPA's Toxic Release Inventory nearly doubled, from 328 in 1990 to 644 in 1999.

1990 President George Bush signs the Pollution Prevention Act, emphasizing the importance of preventing—not just correcting—environmental damage.

1990 President George Bush signs the National Environmental Education Act, signifying the importance of educating the public to ensure scientifically sound, balanced, and responsible decisions about the environment.

1991 Federal agencies begin using recycled content products.

1991 EPA launches voluntary industry partnership programs for energy-efficient lighting and for reducing toxic chemical emissions.

1992 EPA launches the Energy Star® Program to help consumers identify energy-efficient products.

1993 EPA reports secondhand smoke contaminates indoor air, posing serious health risks to nonsmokers.

Today, more than 80 percent of Americans protect their children from secondhand smoke exposure at home.

1993 A cryptosporidium outbreak in Milwaukee, Wisconsin's drinking water sickens 400,000 people and kills more than 100.

1993 President Bill Clinton directs the federal government to use its $200 billion annual purchasing power to buy recycled and environmentally preferable products.

1994 EPA launches its Brownfields Program to clean up abandoned, contaminated sites to return them to productive community use.

1994 EPA issues new standards for chemical plants that will reduce toxic air pollution by more than half a million tons each year— the equivalent of taking 38 million vehicles off the road annually.

1995 EPA launches an incentive-based acid rain program to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions.

1995 EPA requires municipal incinerators to reduce toxic emissions by 90 percent from 1990 levels.

1996 Public drinking water suppliers are required to inform customers about chemicals and microbes in their water, and funding is made available to upgrade water treatment plants.

Today, the vast majority of American households have safe drinking water, and receive annual reports on the quality of their drinking water.

1996 EPA requires that home buyers and renters be informed about lead-based paint hazards.

1996 President Bill Clinton signs the Food Quality Protection Act to tighten standards for pesticides used to grow food, with special protections to ensure that foods are safe for children to eat.

1997 An Executive Order is issued to protect children from environmental health risks, including childhood asthma and lead poisoning.

1997 EPA issues tough new air quality standards for smog and soot, an action that would improve air quality for 125 million Americans.

1998 President Bill Clinton announces the Clean Water Action Plan to continue making America's waterways safe for fishing and swimming.

1999 President Bill Clinton announces new emissions standards for cars, sport utility vehicles, minivans and trucks, requiring them to be 77 percent to 95 percent cleaner than in 1999.

1999 EPA announces new requirements to improve air quality in national parks and wilderness areas.

In the 2000s

2000 EPA establishes regulations requiring more than 90 percent cleaner heavy duty highway diesel engines and fuel.

2002 President George W. Bush signs the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act to reclaim and restore thousands of abandoned properties.

2003 President George W. Bush signs the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, helping to prevent forest fires and safeguard and preserve the nation's forests.

2003 More than 4,000 school buses will be retrofitted through the Clean School Bus USA program, removing 200,000 pounds of particulate matter from the air over the next 10 years.

2003 Clear Skies legislation and alternative regulations are proposed to create a cap and trade system to reduce SO2 emissions by 70 percent and NOx emissions by 65 percent below current levels.

2004 New, more protective, 8-hour ozone and fine particulate standards go into effect across the country.

President George W. Bush proposes the Clean Air Rules of 2004 that will make people healthier now and in the future. The result is more protection—faster—which ensures that clean air will be this generation's contribution to the next.

2004 EPA requires cleaner fuels and engines for off-road diesel machinery such as farm or construction equipment.

2005 EPA issues the Clean Air Interstate Rule and the Clean Air Mercury Rule.

Source: http://www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm

Earth Day Web Sites

U.S Government Links

Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov/earthday

Federal Energy Management Program
http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/earthday.cfm

FirstGov - the Official U.S. Government Portal
http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/Environment_Agriculture.shtml

Natural Resources Conservation Service
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/earthday/earthday2006events.html

U.S. Army
http://aec.army.mil/usaec/publicaffairs/earthday00.html

White House Council on Environmental Quality-Earth Day Photo Essay
http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/photoessays/earthday/01.html

Presidential Environmental Priorities

Clear Skies
www.epa.gov/clearskies

Healthy Forests
http://www.healthyforests.gov/

Hydrogen Fuel Cells & Vehicles
www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells

Preserve America
http://www.preserveamerica.gov/

The White House
www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/environment

This page provides links to federal government Web sites for kids related to Earth Day and the environment.

All About Biology: games, puzzles, and coloring pages.
http://biology.usgs.gov/features/kidscorner/kidscrnr.html

Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program's Education Center.
http://education.arm.gov/

Endangered species: games and how you can help.
http://www.fws.gov/endangered/kids/

Energy Hogbusters: learn how to outsmart the hogs that waste energy.
www.energyhog.org/

Energy Information Administration's Energy Ant: learn about where we get our energy and how we use it. http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/

Environmental Protection Agency's Kids Club: games and activities about environmental issues
www.epa.gov/kids/

FirstGov for Kids: a portal to kids' resources about plants and animals.
www.kids.gov/k_plants.htm

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Kids' pages: play games, read stories, sing along, and color. www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/home.htm

National Park Service WebRangers: fun and activities in our National Parks.
www.nps.gov/webrangers/

Nature Watch: see animals in action.
www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/

Roofus the Dog's Solar and Efficient Neighborhood: make your home energy smart.
www.eere.energy.gov/kids/roofus/

S.K.Worm: he'll answer your questions about dirt.
www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/education/squirm/skworm.html

Sci4Kids: stories about plants and bugs.
www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/plants/plantsintro.htm
www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/insects/insectintro.htm